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CONSTITUTION

OF THE

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Charitable Association

OF THE

Charlestown Fire Department.

Organized, April 23, 1867.

CHARLESTOWN:
PRESS OF THE BUNKER HILL AURORA.
1868.

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Cat. 9/26/34

[illegible]

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

1868.

GEORGE H. GARDNER, PRESIDENT.

WM. E. DELANO, VICE PRESIDENT.

NATHAN E. ABBOTT, SECRETARY.

ELIAS CRAFTS, JR., TREASURER.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

GEORGE E. ROGERS, Board of Engineers.

WILLIAM H. KENT, Committee on Fire Dep't.

EDWARD E. TURNER, Exempts.

F. M. ESTEE, Howard Steamer.

AUGUSTUS WILLSON, Red Jacket Hose 1.

JOHN HOWARD, Bunker Hill Hose 2.

THOS. E. SMITH, Washington Hose 3.

WILLIAM J. JORDAN, Franklin Hose 4.

GEO. B. EDMANDS, Mass. Hook and Ladder Co.

CONSTITUTION.

PREAMBLE.

WHEREAS, The Duties of the members of the Fire Department of Charlestown expose them to dangers and at times to injuries which disable them from attending to their daily avocations and subject them to loss of time that they can ill afford to bear: These considerations indicate the importance of making some permanent provision for the relief of such as are thus disabled. For this purpose it is proposed to create a "Permanent and General Fund," the income arising from the same to be appropriated for the relief of such members of the Association as may be disabled while in the actual discharge of their duty as members of the Department; and in case of death caused by injuries received while in

the discharge of his duty as a Fireman, that his funeral expenses be paid,—

For the above purpose it is decided to create and establish a Permanent and General Fund, which shall be subject to such Constitution and By-Laws as may be necessary for the regulation and management of the said Fund.

TITLE.

ARTICLE I. This Society shall be called the CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION OF THE CHARLESTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT.

OFFICERS.

ARTICLE II. Section 1. The Government of the Association shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and a Board of Trustees, all of whom shall be members of the Association.

Section 2. The President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, shall be elected by ballot, annually, on the second Monday of March, or when a vacancy may occur ; a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary to elect.

Section 3. The Board of Trustees shall be elected at least one week before each annual meeting of the Association,—or when a vacancy occurs,—one by each of the bodies to be represented, as follows: one by the committee on Fire Department of the City Government ; one by the Board of Engineers ; one by each of the companies composing said Fire Department, and one by Exempt Firemen, members of the Association. The Trustees may by a two-thirds vote, when the good of the association demands it, create a vacancy in any of the offices of the association, and the vacancy so declared cannot be filled by the election of the same person.

MEMBERS.

Article III. Section 1. Every member of the present Charlestown Fire Department, shall, during the existence of this Association, have a right to be admitted a member upon payment of One Dollar annually to the Treasurer, and signing the Constitution.

Section 2. Any past member of said Fire Department, may become a member of this Association, who can produce sufficient evidence to the

Trustees, of his having served in said Department five successive years and was honorably discharged, upon the payment of the same sum as above, and signing the Constitution.

Section 3. The Committee on Fire Department shall be, *ex-officio*, members of this Association, and entitled to all the rights of members, but shall receive no benefit financially therefrom.

Section 4. Any member who may elect to pay Five Dollars in advance, may become a Permanent member, so long as he is attached to the present Fire Department, and if he shall have served in the present Charlestown Fire Department five successive years, he shall be a Life Member, and as such entitled to receive such Certificate as the Trustees may decide hereafter to award.

Section 5. Any member in arrears shall not be entitled to vote, or take part in any meeting, until such arrears are paid ; and any member other than a Permanent or Life Member, his membership shall cease at the next annual meeting after leaving the Department.

FUNDS.

Article IV. Section 1. The Funds of this Association shall be of two classes—The Permanent and the General Fund.

Section 2. The Permanent Fund shall consist of such monies as are donated by private subscription or gifts, and said Fund shall be loaned to the City of Charlestown, for which the said Association shall receive the City's Note, interest payable semi-annually, and at no time, and under no circumstances, shall this fund be drawn upon.

Section 3. The General Fund shall consist of interest accruing from the Permanent Fund, assessments of members, and monies from any other source, and from this fund shall be paid the expenses of the association.

Section 4. The General Fund shall be deposited in such Savings Bank, or Banks, of this ctiy as the Trustees may direct, and can be drawn only by the Treasurer, upon an order of a majority of the Trustees.

Section 5. In case the rules governing the present Department are so altered or amended that it ceases to be in name or theory, a "Volun-

teer Fire Department," then such sums as may be a component part of the Permanent Fund, and not donated with a proviso, shall be held in trust by the Trustees, until a Board of Trustees shall be chosen by a Charitable Association of the new Department, when such funds shall be transferred to them, but the General Fund and all other monies shall not be so transferred or paid over either by the Trustees or the Association.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

ARTICLE V. Section 1. The duty of the President shall be to preside at all meetings of the Association, and call a meeting of the Association, when required to do so by the Trustees.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the Vice President to assist the President, and to fulfil his duties in his absence or refusal to perform them.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a fair and accurate record of all the doings of the Association and Board of Trustees, notify for all meetings when so ordered, keep a roll of the Life, Permanent and other members of the Association, publish yearly a list of the

Officers of the Association in some city paper within two weeks after their election, and perform all other duties usually pertaining to such an office, and for his services he shall receive the sum of Twenty-five dollars per year.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive and collect all monies, and to disburse them as directed by the Trustees; keep a faithful and accurate account of all monies so received and disbursed; have his books at all times open to the inspection and scrutiny of the Trustees, and yearly present a detailed report to the Association, and perform all such other duties as pertain to such an office.

Section 5. The Board of Trustees shall have the general care, supervision and entire management of the Association; direct the calling of all meetings, payment of all monies, and have entire control and direction of all its affairs, when not inconsistent with the votes of the Association, and shall meet as often as once in three months.

RELIEF.

Article VI. Section 1. Every member of this Association who may receive an injury while

in the discharge of the duties of a Fireman, shall give notice thereof to the Trustees within ten days after receiving such injury, and likewise adopt the usual necessary precautions to effect his own recovery; and if no notice be given within such time, either by himself, any officer of the company to which he is attached, or the Chief Engineer, such person shall be deprived of relief from the Association.

Section 2. Any member who may receive an injury to his limbs or health, while in the discharge of a fireman's duty, a sum not to exceed Ten Dollars per week shall be paid to him by the Trustees, as much, and as long as they deem expedient; and, in addition to this, they shall pay his apothecary's bill, and so much of his physician's bill as they believe reasonable; and all members being considered bound to receive such aid when entitled to it, whether rich or poor.

Section 3. The Trustees may determine what sums may be appropriated for special purposes—such as death at or immediately following a fire, death of any member, cases of distress to any member, or any past member of the present Fire Department, who served five years and was honorably discharged; and such cases shall receive

the attention of the Trustees, and such sums of money may be appropriated as they may deem proper, not to exceed in any one case in amount One hundred dollars.

Section 4. No member of this Association shall be allowed to make application for relief to the City Government, under penalty of forfeiture of relief from this Association, but the Board of Trustees may make such general and particular arrangements with the City Government as may be mutually agreed upon

SUBJECTS.

Article VII. No subject or question of any kind shall be introduced or discussed at the meetings of the Association except such as are immediately connected with the management of its affairs and the benevolent purposes of the Association.

TO ALTER OR AMEND.

Article VIII. Any of the foregoing articles excepting Article IV, may be repealed, altered or amended by a three-fourths' vote of all members present at any meeting of the Association called for that special purpose.